



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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April 12, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

33 April 12, 2016

LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**COUNTY LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS
LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ACT DISTRICTS 1, 2, AND 4
ANNUAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE – FISCAL YEAR 2016-17
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 1, 3, 4, AND 5)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This action is to adopt a Resolution Initiating Proceedings to levy the annual assessments for landscape maintenance purposes in Landscaping and Lighting Act Districts 1, 2, and 4 and Zones therein pursuant to the California Streets and Highway Code.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this letter and in the record of the project.
2. Adopt the Resolution Initiating Proceedings to levy the annual assessments in Fiscal Year 2016-17 for landscape maintenance purposes in Landscaping and Lighting Act Districts 1, 2, and 4 and Zones therein pursuant to provisions of the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, Part 2 of Division 15 of the Streets and Highways Code of California, section 22500 et. seq.
3. Designate the Director of Public Works or her designee as the Engineer for purposes of implementing this procedure.
4. Instruct the Director of Public Works or her designee to prepare and file an annual Engineer's Report in accordance with Chapter 1, Article 4 of the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, Part 2 of Division 15 of the Streets and Highways Code of California (commencing with section 22565) for the

annual levy of assessments for Fiscal Year 2016-17 within Landscaping and Lighting Districts 1, 2, and 4 and Zones therein, in accordance with Chapter 2, Article 3, of the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, Part 2 of Division 15 of the Streets and Highways Code of California (commencing with section 22605).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of these recommendations is to adopt the enclosed Resolution Initiating Proceedings and instruct the Director of Public Works to prepare the annual Engineer's Report for the levying of annual assessments for landscape maintenance purposes for all Zones within the Landscaping and Lighting Act (LLA) Districts 1, 2, and 4.

On July 12, 1979; August 10, 1995; and July 22, 1997; the Board approved the formation of LLA Districts 1, 2, and 4 and Zones therein, respectively, pursuant to provisions of the LLA of 1972, Part 2 of Division 15 of the Streets and Highways Code of California, section 22500 et. seq., in order to collect assessments to pay for the costs of maintaining landscaping benefiting the subject properties.

This action is only to initiate the annual process for levying assessments and does not establish any assessment rates. In accordance with Proposition 13, assessments cannot be based on property values. Each LLA District and Zone therein is obligated to establish a benefit formula by which assessments are set according to the special benefit received from the service or improvement, as set forth in an Engineer's Report.

As the governing body, the Board of Supervisors is responsible for approving the levying of annual assessments for landscape purposes. Board adoption of the Resolution Initiating Proceedings and directing the Director to prepare an Engineer's Report initiates the annual assessment process for the levy of annual assessments for Fiscal Year 2016-17.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action will further the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness/Sustainability (Goal 1) by ensuring the continuation of services to maintain the landscaped areas and appurtenant improvements that benefit those who live within these Districts and Zones. This action is consistent with Community Support and Responsiveness (Goal 2) by establishing assessments to provide the funding necessary for the operation and maintenance of the landscaping and appurtenant facilities that benefit the properties within these Districts and Zones. In addition, this action is consistent with Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3). Maintaining landscaping services provide for the delivery of a customer-oriented municipal service for the convenience of the benefiting public, which improves the quality of life in the County of Los Angeles.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

All services administered by Public Works and provided in the LLA Districts and Zones therein, are funded by the assessments established by the Board. The proposed assessments will generate approximately \$6.2 million in total revenue in LLA Districts 1, 2, and 4 and Zones therein for Fiscal Year 2016-17.

Funding for this work is included in the Landscape Maintenance Districts and LLA Districts Fund Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The LLA of 1972 sets forth procedures that must be followed for any fiscal year during which assessments levied in a prior fiscal year are to be continued. Section 22622 of the Streets and Highways Code requires the Board to adopt an initial resolution (the Resolution Initiating Proceedings) that generally describes any proposed improvements or substantial changes in existing improvements and ordering the Engineer to prepare and file an Engineer's Report in accordance with section 22565 of the Streets and Highways Code.

In a few weeks, Public Works will file the Engineer's Report and return to the Board for approval of a resolution of intention in accordance with Streets and Highways Code section 22624, setting the public hearing date to establish the assessments for Fiscal Year 2016-17 pursuant to the Act. Any new or increased assessments must also comply with the requirements of Proposition 218, set forth in Article XIII D of the California Constitution, and Government Code section 53753, which would require the Board to give the affected property owners mailed notice and ballots regarding any proposed new or increased assessment and hold a public hearing to receive ballots in support of or opposition to the proposed new or increased assessment for tabulation.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved this letter and the resolution as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project consists of initiation of proceedings for the levying of annual assessments for landscape maintenance purposes and is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in sections 15301(c) and 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(x)(27) and 6 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves information collection for the LLA Districts and Zones.

The proposed project includes no expansion of an existing use and will not involve the removal of healthy, mature trees. Additionally, the proposed project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource; is not in a sensitive environment; and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed project records.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of this action will cause no impact on current services or programs.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter and a copy of the signed resolution to the Department of Public Works, Traffic and Lighting Division. Also, please forward one adopted copy of the letter and resolution to the Assessor, Ownership Services Section (Attention Sonia Carter Baltazar), and one to the Auditor-Controller, Tax Division (Attention Grace Kinoshita).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Farber".

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:DRL:ss

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office (Rochelle Goff)
County Counsel (Julia Weissman)
Executive Office

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION INITIATING PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE ANNUAL LEVY AND COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS FOR
COUNTY LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ACT DISTRICTS 1, 2, AND 4
AND ZONES THEREIN FOR THE 2016-2017 FISCAL YEAR
AND ORDERING THE PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL ENGINEER'S REPORT**

WHEREAS, on July 12, 1979; August 10, 1995; and July 22, 1997, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles approved the formation of Landscaping and Lighting Act (LLA) Districts 1, 2, and 4, respectively, for the purpose of providing funds for the operation of the LLA Districts and Zones therein within the County of Los Angeles pursuant to provisions of the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 (the Act), section 22500 et. seq. of the California Streets and Highways Code; and

WHEREAS, within the LLA District 1 there are three (3) established, separate Zones, within the LLA District 2 there are seventeen (17) established, separate Zones, and within LLA District 4 there are thirteen (13) established, separate Zones; and each Zone consists of territory that receives substantially similar and proportional special benefits from the improvements provided in the Zone; and

WHEREAS, each of the three (3), seventeen (17), and thirteen (13) Zones within LLA Districts 1, 2, and 4, respectively, retain separate budgets, trust accounts, and unit numbers established by the County of Los Angeles Auditor-Controller; and

WHEREAS, the Board previously approved the formation of LLA Districts and Zones therein for the purpose of providing funds for landscape maintenance services to benefit the properties located therein pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby proposes to levy annual assessments for existing LLA Districts 1, 2, and 4 and Zones therein, and to levy and collect assessments against the lots and parcels of land within such LLA Districts and Zones therein to pay for the costs and expenses of the landscape improvements for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017, pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, the general location and boundaries of the LLA Districts 1, 2, and 4 and Zones therein are shown on maps on file in the office of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and are incorporated herein by reference and open to public inspection; and

WHEREAS, provisions of the Act require the Board to adopt a Resolution Initiating Proceedings, to generally describe any proposed improvements or substantial changes in existing improvements and to order the Engineer to prepare and file an Engineer's Report in accordance with sections 22565 and 22605 of the Act and Article XIII D of the California Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles:

Section 1. That the Board proposes to establish assessments for landscape maintenance purposes for Fiscal Year 2016-17 to be levied against properties in LLA Districts 1, 2, and 4 and Zones therein pursuant to the provisions of the Act.

Section 2. That the Board proposes to establish assessments for landscape maintenance purposes for Fiscal Year 2016-17 pursuant to the provisions of the Act, to be used for the maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrades to planted and irrigated slopes, turf areas, parkway panels, medians, automated irrigation system components, and related appurtenances within LLA Districts 1, 2, and 4 and Zones therein, in compliance with the procedures set forth in the Act.

Section 3. That the Director of Public Works or her designee is hereby ordered to prepare and file the Engineer's Report in accordance with sections 22565 and 22605 of the Act and Article XIII D, Section 4, of the California Constitution.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the 12th day of April 2016, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies, and authorities for which said Board so acts.



LORI GLASGOW
Executive Officer of the
Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles

By Carla Little
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARY C. WICKHAM
County Counsel

By Julia Weisman
Deputy